

SUGAR SENT ALLIES CAUSE OF SHORTAGE HERE, SAYS HOOVER

The White House has come to the aid of Food Administrator Herbert C. Hoover by giving to the press the food chief's statement which the Senate committee rejected.

In this statement Hoover declares that the sugar shortage is mainly due to the sending of large supplies to our allies.

Prices, Hoover says in his answer to the Senate committee, would have jumped to 25 or 30 cents a pound if they had not been fixed by his department.

It is expected that when the committee resumes its hearings on Friday Hoover will be permitted to amplify his statement.

The statement which the White House gave out yesterday says that the Food Administration has handled the situation with a view to sustaining the morale of France and England, where the sugar ration has been extremely low for months, and at the same time preventing a jump in price to 25 or 30 cents here.

Some Export Figures.

Since the Food Administration was created in August the United States has exported to the allies 110,336 tons of refined sugar, and in the same period Cuba has shipped to Europe 346,132 tons of raw product. This, it is declared, is just the amount of the shortage in the United States.

Even with these shipments, it is pointed out, the supply in England and France has been inadequate. Consumption in England has been reduced to 24 pounds a year for each person and in France to 14 pounds, against a consumption in America of 55 pounds.

The shortage, the food administrator declares, will continue during next year, as it is the duty of the United States to continue to feed the allies.

"Next year," Hoover says, "our supplies will be short 250,000 to 300,000 tons unless the allies go to Java for supplies. This amounts to an economy of about 10 per cent on our part; the allies are forced to go to Java to get the sugar they need, and it will require an extra amount of shipping, which, if used to transport troops, will move 350,000 or 200,000 American soldiers to France."

"If statements that there will be an abundance of sugar next year are believed by the American public it will do this country's war efforts incalculable harm. The number of troops we can send across is limited. If we in our greed and gluttony force the allies either to reduce their ration or to go to remote markets after sugar we will have done tremendous damage to our abilities to win the war."

Stocks Being Moved.

Charges that the food administration has permitted sugar stocks to remain in parts of the country unmoved are denied, as are statements that sugar was left in Cuba while an effort was made to hasten Cuban prices.

"There are no sugar stocks in this country," it is declared, "which are not in course of distribution. Some 20,000 tons held up by the embargo have been released for American consumption. All but a small amount of Cuban sugar has been exported to the allies or to the United States. This is shown in a report from the American consul general in Cuba."

As to the fixing of sugar prices, the food administration has this to say: "In order to prevent profiteering out of the situation, the food administration considered it necessary to fix prices. It was necessary to impose a maximum profit on refiners and wholesalers."

"The refiners' margin was \$1.54 per hundred the nine months before the food administration took over the business; it was reduced to \$1.20, and a saving of more than \$25,000,000 per annum was effected."

"As a further precaution against profiteering, the administration obtained a voluntary agreement with the beet sugar factories that they would not sell sugar at more than \$7.25 a hundred pounds seaboard. Some who had already sold at \$9 resold their contracts. This was followed by similar agreements with Louisiana, Cuban, and Hawaiian arrivals."

"The net result of these voluntary agreements was to reduce the ruling price of sugar 1 1/2 cents west of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and 1 cent on the Atlantic. Had these arrangements not been made, sugar would have risen to 25 or 30 cents a pound."

Prosecutions Started.

Numerous prosecutions have been started against firms which have sold sugar at prices of 15 and 20 cents.

"The consumers' sugar bill from the time restrictions were imposed until January 1 will be about \$180,000,000. Every cent pound rise means about \$1,800,000. Twenty-cent sugar would have meant about \$180,000,000 profiteered from the American consumer."

"There was no other way under the law to prevent profiteering except by voluntary agreement, as the food bill carried no power to fix prices. These agreements have of necessity been made with the old manufacturers, including the sugar trust."

"Independent refiners are represented by a majority on a committee whose duty it is to divide the imported sugar between all equitably. This committee has no price-fixing power; it has only the right of distribution. The independent refiners who have been fighting the trust for years could be depended on to watch any unfair action."

"An appeal to prejudice has been made against the food administration because the Cuban price is 34 cents above that which prevailed in 1917 prior to September 1. It has been said to effect that the Cuban price at our mercy, that we could get sugar 1 cent lower."

Devised Into Cost.

"We made an exhaustive study of the cost of producing sugar in Cuba last year through our own agents in Cuba. We found that an average profit of at least 1 cent per pound was necessary in order to maintain and stimulate production or that a minimum price of \$4.37 was necessary, and even this would still some producers."

"The price ultimately agreed upon was 25 cents above these figures, or

At That a Kid Deserves a Little the Best of It Around Christmas



Coming to the Theaters

Otis Skinner, who has introduced so many remarkable characterizations to the theatergoing public, will be seen in the picturesque role of an Italian organ-grinder when he comes to the National Theater next week in his comedy sketch "Mister Antonio." There will be matinees on New Year, Wednesday, and Saturday. This play was written for Mr. Skinner by Booth Tarkington, and the character of Tony Camerondo, is said to be one of the best he has ever played. The cast will be the same as when Mr. Skinner was seen here last season, including Eleanor Woodruff, Joseph Brennan, Robert Harrison, Walter F. Scott, John McCabe, Frances Landy, Sue Ann Wilson, Agnes Marc, and others.

BELESCO.
"The 13th Chair," the melodrama of mystery by Bayard Veiller, with the name and merit of which Washington theatergoers became familiar during the play's engagement of a year in New York, will appear for the first time in this city at the Belasco Theater next week. In addition to the regular night and afternoon performances, an extra matinee will be given on New Year Day. Annie Russell, one of the Capital's favorite actresses, is the leader of the cast which will perform the piece. Associated with her are players of such well-established reputation as DeWitt C. Jennings, Fred Eric, Reginald Carrington, and Esther Cornell.

POLIS.
For the second week of the Poll Musical Players, "Step This Way," will be the bill. The first performance will be Monday night, as it is the intention of the management that each week's production shall start on that day. The final performance of "The Candy Shop" for the week will be held next Sunday night. Louise Mink, the prima donna; Sarah Edwards, Eulalia Young, Betty Lynn, George Nathanson, Elsie Bartlett, and all the other favorites will be in the cast.

GAYETY.
"The Bon Ton Girls," a lively aggregation of entertainers, will hold the stage at the Gayety Theater for New Year week. They will be seen in an up-to-the-moment musical revue, entitled "At the Movies," presented in two acts and six reels. The cast is headed by Lester Allen, in the character of "Charlie Chaplin," while John Barry, Joe Opp, John Wakenfield, Irene Chesleigh, Maude Clarke, Anthony Cortelli, Ed Simons, Eddie Miller and Roderic are in the cast. A large chorus of Broadway favorites is also a feature, and specialties of merit will be introduced incidentally.

B. F. KEITH'S.
New Year week will be observed at B. F. Keith's Theater with a bill headed by two attractions, Dolly Connolly and Percy Wenrich and "On the High Seas." On New Year Day there will be three performances, 2:15, 5:15, and 8:15. Both Miss Connolly and Mr. Wenrich are strong favorites here. Several of the composer's new ballads will be sung by the comedienne. "On the High Seas" is a spectacular scenic melodrama by Langford McCormick showing a sea battle, said to be very realistic and thrilling.

Other features are Hazzard Short and Company in "The Ruby Ray," about one-fifth of a cent per pound to the American consumer, and more than this amount has been saved to the country by the reduction in the price of sugar in net result sugar would be 1 cent cheaper to the Atlantic consumer next year than now.

"If we wish to stifle production in Cuba we could take that course just at the time of all times in our history when we want production for ourselves and the allies. Further, it is to effect that the Cuban price at our mercy, that we could get sugar 1 cent lower."

"We made an exhaustive study of the cost of producing sugar in Cuba last year through our own agents in Cuba. We found that an average profit of at least 1 cent per pound was necessary in order to maintain and stimulate production or that a minimum price of \$4.37 was necessary, and even this would still some producers."

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"The Color Gems," a posing novelty; Al Lydell and Bob Higgins in "A Friend of Father's;" Ray Fern and Marion Davis in "A Nightmare Revue;" Renee Florigny, the brilliant French pianist; the Breen family, of dancers; the pipe organ recitals, and the Heart-Pathe news pictorial war films. Next Sunday at 3 and 8:15 p. m. the bill will offer all the features of this week's bill.

LOEW'S COLUMBIA.
Beginning today and continuing for the entire week Douglas Fairbanks will be the pictured star at Loew's Columbia in his latest photoplay, "A Modern Musketeer." The scenes were filmed in the Grand Canyon of Colorado, and is one of the most pretentious productions, and is said to be the apotheosis of acrobatic amours. The story has to do with Ned Thacker, born in Kansas with the spirit of a frontiersman, of Gascony. When he falls in love it takes something more than a millionaire rival, a half-caste Indian guide, and the duke of Grand Canyon to keep him from the lady of his choice. In fact, the film is a masterpiece of acrobatic amours.

STRAND.
At Moore's Strand Theater next week from Sunday to Wednesday the feature of the photoplay bill will be "Daughter of Destiny" with Madama Olga Petrova, the distinguished Polish actress, as the star. It pictures the career of a romantic American girl, whose father is an ambassador in a very hotbed of European intrigue. The girl soon finds herself entangled in a web of diplomacy and love, but wins. From Thursday to Sunday the feature will be "The Mark of Cain," in which Mrs. Vernon Castle and Antonio Moreno are co-stars. The attraction for the remaining days of this week will continue to be "The Silent Man."

GARDEN.
William Russell, the most cheerfully willing two-handed fighter upon the screen, will furnish the major portion of the amusement and all of the excitement at Moore's Garden Theater from Thursday to Sunday of the current week. The attraction for the remainder of this week will be "The Silent Man," the career of a romantic American girl, whose father is an ambassador in a very hotbed of European intrigue. The girl soon finds herself entangled in a web of diplomacy and love, but wins. From Thursday to Sunday the feature will be "The Mark of Cain," in which Mrs. Vernon Castle and Antonio Moreno are co-stars. The attraction for the remaining days of this week will continue to be "The Silent Man."

KNICKERBOCKER.
"Intolerance," D. W. Griffith's massive motion picture production, will be the attraction at Grandville's Knickerbocker for a three-day engagement, commencing Saturday. The scenes are laid in the time of the time of Christ, and the time when Babylon flourished. Some of the celebrities of the picture production are pictured in the principal parts. Among them are Mae Marsh, Robert, from "Intolerance," Talmadge, from "The Sign of the Cross," Miriam Cooper, from "The Sign of the Cross," and others. The picture is a masterpiece of production, and is said to be very realistic and thrilling.

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